

REMARKS

The courteous interview granted to applicant's undersigned attorney on February 9, 2005, is hereby acknowledged with appreciation. At the interview, the invention, the outstanding Office Action and the prior art of record were thoroughly discussed.

Claim 4, indicated to be allowable in the first Office Action if written in independent form, has been written in independent form and was shown to the Examiner at the interview of February 9, 2005. As discussed at the February 9, 2005 interview, claim 4 omits the features "monolithic" and "said valve body formed from circular metal bar stock" that are included in claim 1. As agreed at the interview of February 9, 2005, claim 4, as now written, remains allowable over the prior art since the above-quoted omitted features were not considered for patentability of claim 4. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended claim 4 as well as original claims 5, 6 and 8 are allowable.

Claim 10, indicated to be allowable in the first Office Action if rewritten in independent form, has been rewritten in independent form. Once again, the features from claim 1 "monolithic" and "said valve body formed from circular metal bar stock" have been omitted from claim 10 since these features were not considered necessary for distinguishing over the prior art. Further, original claims 21-24 have been amended so that they ultimately depend from claim 10. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 10 and 21-24 are allowable.

Claim 14, indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form in accordance with the first Office Action has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 14, like claims 4 and 10, omits the features "monolithic" and "said valve body formed from circular metal bar stock" since the claim is allowable without these features, as agreed at the interview of February 9, 2005.

New claims 25-28 were discussed at the interview of February 9, 2005 and include the feature that the valve actuator includes an annular valve seat that seats against a valve seat material that is disposed below the gas inlet orifice. As explained at the interview of February 9, 2005, and as indicated to be allowable in original claims, such as claim 4 and claim 8 as originally filed, this embodiment of the invention prevents high pressure inlet gas from striking against valve seat material so that ignition is prevented. It is submitted, therefore, that new claims 25-28 also are allowable over the prior art of record.

The remaining claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11-13, 17 and 19, are directed to a high pressure post-valve formed from circular metal bar stock and include post-valve claims 1-3, 7 and 9 as well as the method of forming the post-valve from circular metal bar stock - claims 11-13, 17 and 19.

In accordance with this embodiment of the invention, as described in paragraph [0005] of the specification "The manufacturing process includes starting with round metal bar stock, which is less expensive than the square or rectangular bar stock now used to machine the valve bodies, and cutting or etching away the outer diameter of the round metal stock to create the square or rectangular portions of the valve body. The seat ring is turned or left to be circular." This feature was discussed at the interview of February 9, 2005, and a review of the prior art of record has shown that none of the prior art discloses the manufacture of a high pressure post-valve starting with circular metal bar stock.

It is submitted that applicant is unaware of any high pressure post-valve being manufactured in the claimed manner and submits that a further review of the prior art will not uncover the claimed manufacturing process. It is submitted, therefore, in view of the advantages disclosed at paragraph [0005] of applicant's specification, the remaining claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11-13, 17 and 19 are allowable.

It is submitted that all claims are now of proper form and scope for allowance. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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